

# THE COUPLER

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



### Community and passion

As we embark on a new musical season and academic year, it is my distinct honor and privilege to write to you for the first time as dean of this great chapter. It will be a pleasure to serve you, the membership, and the AGO as a whole alongside our wonderful new board.

I must thank David Houston for his steady leadership over the past two years, along with our outgoing board members, particularly in dealing with the challenges of navigating the chapter through a global pandemic. We are grateful to each of them for their service, and I am thankful for those board members who have stayed on for a new term.

The mission of the AGO is to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ. Our guiding principles this year will be “community” and “passion.” This is your chapter, and it is as strong as every member that makes up its constituency. We as your board are here to serve you and to promote a  
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SEPTEMBER 2022

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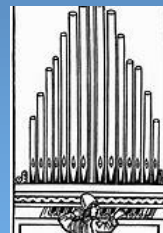
Joy-Leilani Garbutt, left, and Janet Yieh will perform at PipeSpectacular 2022 in October.

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The Member Spotlight shines on lifetime chapter member Albert Russell.

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Almost 20 local churches are seeking organists or music directors.

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### Mark Your Calendar

Our chapter and the Potomac chapter will install officers and learn about Welsh hymn tunes used in American churches on Sunday, Sept. 25.

See Pages 2-3.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Installation and program on Welsh hymns

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Sept. 25, when our chapter will join with the Potomac chapter to install officers and enjoy a program exploring Welsh hymn tunes used in various denominational hymnals. The program will start at 4:30 pm at Redeemer Episcopal Church, 6201 Dunrobbin Drive in Bethesda's Glen Echo neighborhood.

See the poster on Page 3.

Dr. Eileen Guenther, former president of the national AGO, will be the master of ceremony.



The presenter will be Dr. James P. Cassarino, music director and chair of the Fine Arts Department at Christ School, an Episcopal boarding high school for boys near Asheville, NC. He is also music director at Grace Episcopal Church in North Asheville.

For 20 years Cassarino served as associate professor and chair of the Music Department at Green Mountain College in Poultney, VT. He is a graduate of Bangor University in northern Wales. His dissertation investigated the Welsh hymn tune tradition in the United States from the Colonial period to the present.

### PipeSpectacular 2022 coming in October

Friday, Oct. 14 at 7 pm

National City Christian Church

This tri-chapter program, in partnership with [The Boulanger Initiative](#), will feature music by female composers with spoken



program notes/explanations as well as an exploration of resources to help us incorporate these compositions into our repertoire.

Guest performers will be Janet Yieh (New York City Church of the Heavenly Rest), left, a native of Alexandria, VA, and Joy-Leilani Garbutt (St. Luke's Episcopal San Francisco), a former DC chapter member.



American Guild of Organists  
District of Columbia Chapter

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2021-2022

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### THE COUPLER

A monthly newsletter published by the DC chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Send submissions to  
dcagochapter@gmail.com.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND POTOMAC CHAPTERS

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



# INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

EXPLORING THE RICH WELSH HYMN TUNES  
USED IN OUR DENOMINATIONAL HYMNALS

Sunday, September 25 at 4:30pm

REDEEMER EPISCOPAL - BETHESDA, MD  
6201 DUNROBBIN DR



JAMES CASSARINO - PRESENTER  
AND FEATURING VARIOUS CHAPTER MEMBERS



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Albert Russell

Each month *The Coupler* focuses on one of our chapter members. If you would like to be featured in a future Member Spotlight, send an email to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com).



**AL RUSSELL, CENTER, CELEBRATES HIS 91<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY WITH IRV LAWLESS, LEFT, AND LON SCHREIBER.**

Lifetime chapter member Al Russell has been a prominent part of the Washington organ scene for more than 50 years.

Al spent 19 years as organist and choirmaster at St. John's Lafayette Square in DC. Some Sundays he would play in the morning at St. John's and then fly to Boston to play evensong at Trinity Church Copley Square. He taught organ at Peabody Conservatory and the College of Church Musicians at Washington National Cathedral.

Among his recordings are *Aeolian-Skinner Presents The King of Instruments: Two Great Organs*, recorded at Philharmonic Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City and Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, CT; and *The Aeolian-Skinner Legacy Vol. 2: Albert Russell Plays Three Great Organs* recorded at Riverside Church in New York, Lincoln Center and National Presbyterian Church in DC. (Listen to a clip of Dupre's "Preludio" on the Aeolian-Skinner organ, Opus 1456 at National Presbyterian Church in Washington in a recording of a 1973 recital [here](#).) He also recorded several LPs at St. John's.

For a time Al was Virgil Fox's assistant at Riverside Church in New York City, playing services when Fox was on tour. Al was a guest of honor at the East Texas Pipe Organ Festival in 2015.

Al attends the Church of the Ascension in DC and enjoys the Music at Midday series at National City Christian Church, across Thomas Circle from his home. His life partner, Ed Thomson, passed away in 2012 after 53 years together. They once had the Durufles to dinner at their house.

In 2006, Al was interviewed by Lorenz Maycher. Portions of the article are reprinted here with permission from *The Diapason*, October 2007, pages 24-27.

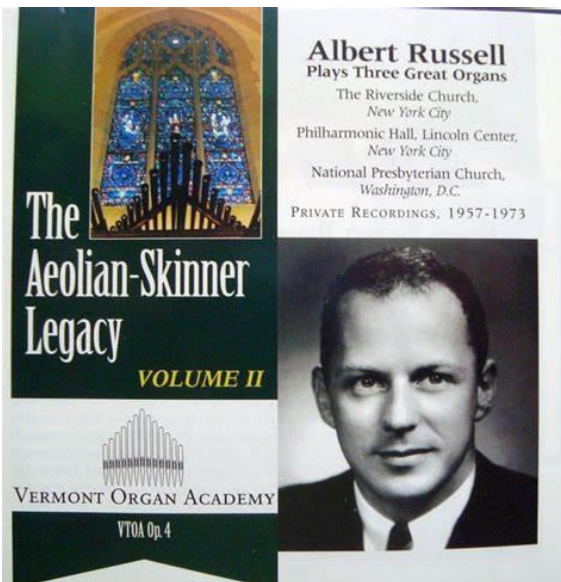
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**Lorenz Maycher:** Tell me about your early years and how you got interested in the organ.

**Albert Russell:** I was born in Marlin, TX, which is near Waco. Later, we moved to Stamford, near Abilene. I was interested in the organ from early childhood, and used to go to choir practice with my mother and drive the organist crazy, reaching up and playing the keys while they rehearsed. I started piano lessons at the age of 6 and organ at 12, taking lessons on a two-manual Estey at the Methodist church, where the highest pitch was a 4' flute. My teacher would put on the sub-coupler and say she was "searching for depth." She gave me mostly transcriptions.

Her students were not allowed to use the tremolo while we were practicing because she was afraid it would break and she wouldn't be able to use it on Sunday. She kept a clothespin on the tremolo stop so we wouldn't use it.



I left Stamford when I graduated high school and went to study with Robert Markham at Baylor [University], where I had a full scholarship. I was also chapel organist at Baylor and organist at First Lutheran Church in Waco and later First Methodist Church in Marlin.

Then I was in the Air Force, stationed in Bryan, TX. I would play the chapel service using a field pump organ at first and then we got a Hammond, which made me feel like I was playing a five-manual Skinner. After the service I would go into town and play at First Presbyterian.

When I got out of the Air Force, I went to the University of Texas in Austin and auditioned for and got the job at University Methodist Church. It was great fun to try to play the organ loudly enough to support a congregation of 1,200 Methodists singing "the good ol' hymns!" The organ at UT was the first Aeolian-Skinner I had any contact with, and it was such an eye opener.

The summer of 1953, I came to Washington, DC. I had heard William Watkins play a recital at Baylor and vowed then that I'd like to study with him. And sure enough, I did in the summer of 1953. He was so wonderful to me and got me jobs playing the organ all over town. When I got to Washington I had \$50 in my pocket so had to get a job in a hurry.

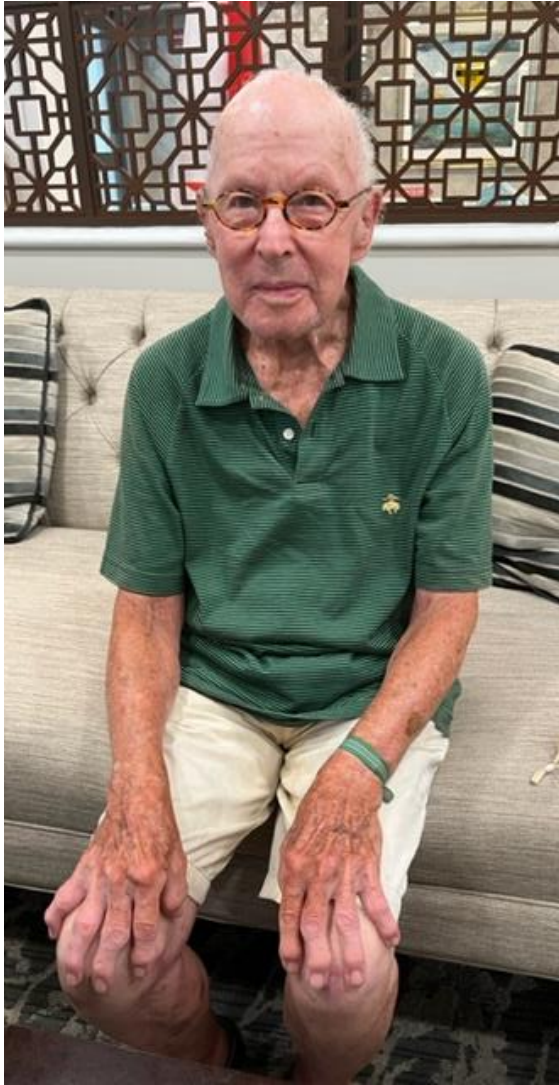
**LM:** You came to Washington just to study with him?

**AR:** Yes. Studying with him that summer was such a great experience that I decided to come back to Washington in January of 1954 to work with him some more at the Washington Musical Institute, where I completed my bachelor's degree. In the fall of '54 I enrolled in the master's program at Union Theological Seminary in New York, studying organ with Hugh Porter. I decided to also study organ

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with Searle Wright just to get a different perspective on things. I got to play a number of noonday recitals at St. Paul's Chapel at Columbia, where he taught his lessons.



I learned about being a good musician from Searle. He always taught such interesting repertoire, like Robert Russell Bennett's *Trio*, where all three voices are in different keys. I chided him about that piece for years afterwards for giving me something so difficult.

Through the faculty at Union, I made many connections in New York City and as a result got to play one of the opening recitals on the new Aeolian-Skinner at St. Thomas in 1956. It was an absolutely thrilling organ.

During my second year at Union, I was chapel organist and got to accompany the choir's Christmas concert, with Ifor Jones conducting. I once made the mistake of giving him a pitch with the celestes on. Well, I never did that again!

I studied improvisation with Harold Friedell and got to play one of the Lenten recitals at St. Bartholomew's. I remember Virgil Fox came to the recital. I did the "Sicilienne" from the Durufle *Suite* and used the dome Vox Humana – shouldn't have been using it, but Virgil thought it was the highlight. I had gotten to know Virgil through a friend of mine who was a tenor in the choir at Riverside. He thought I should play for Virgil once. So I did, and that is how I got started substituting for him whenever he was away.

#### AL AT THE RESIDENCES AT THOMAS CIRCLE

At Riverside, I had to do anything I could to make money, so I ran the elevator, sang in the afternoon choir for oratorios and ran the switchboard.

After graduating from Union, I went to Hartford, CT, to be organist-choirmaster at Asylum Hill Congregational Church. Soon afterwards I also got jobs teaching at Hartt College and as university organist at Wesleyan University.

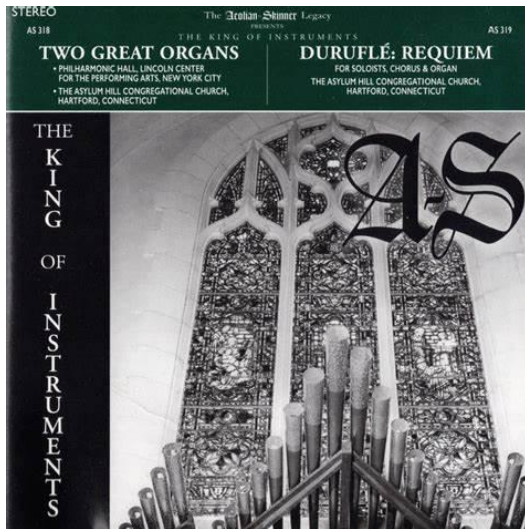
**LM:** When did you move to Washington?

**AR:** 1966. I had been in Hartford 10 years. One day I received a letter from the rector at St. John's Lafayette Square, asking me if I would be interested in the job. Paul Callaway and George Faxon had recommended me to him. Coming here was one of the best things that ever happened to me. We had  
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excellent singers in the choir. We hosted several regional conventions in Washington and the choir either sang programs or services for these. We had a national convention in 1982. I was program



chairman for that, and we did the Durufle *Requiem* the opening night of the convention to a full house. I'll never forget the choir processing in to Hyfrydol. Later, they told me, "We just stopped singing so we could hear that enormous thrilling sound coming from all the organists in the congregation." You couldn't put on enough organ. I conducted and played the *Requiem*.

**LM:** Did you play for a lot of dignitaries at St. John's?

**AR:** Yes. Before every presidential inauguration we had an early service. And every president worshiped there. Once in a while the rector would say, "Let Helen play the last hymn, and you can come out and meet the president." The only ones

who were there regularly were the Fords. It sounds glamorous to say the president was there, but security was such an issue that it made life difficult. The Secret Service men would put dogs in the organ chamber. There was one Sunday where we had a bomb scare while the choir was practicing, so we had to finish the rehearsal out on the sidewalk using a pitch pipe.

**LM:** You did quite a bit of teaching in Washington too, didn't you?

**AR:** Yes. [At Peabody] I taught all day on Mondays for \$10 an hour. The concert hall had an Aeolian-Skinner, but I taught on a Walcker practice organ with a mixture that could be heard all the way to Washington. I needed my martinis after 8 hours of that.

Leo Sowerby also asked me to teach at the College of Musicians [at Washington National Cathedral]. I also taught organ at American University and Catholic University. I never enjoyed teaching as much as playing recitals or doing church work.

In the early '80s I noticed I had a problem with my right hand. One finger would just lock. Leon Fleisher had had the same problem and had been diagnosed at Mass. General, so that's where I went. Sure enough, I had the same thing – focal dystonia, a neurological problem that cannot be cured. I decided to give up the church. I know St. John's did not understand why I left, and why I continued to play elsewhere. But I had to follow my conscience. I did not want tourists coming from all over the world to a church where the organist could not play major literature. Of course, people were asking right and left for the Widor *Toccata* for weddings, which was out of the question.

I cannot imagine being more fortunate than I have been all through my school years, career and now in retirement to have had the teachers, colleagues, friends and bosses who have given me an enormous amount of support and affection. What else is there that matters in life?

## ORGAN RECITALS

**Sunday, Sept. 11, 3 pm:** Tom Mitts, who retired as music director at Augustana Lutheran Church after 27 years, returns to play a recital on the church's newly restored Letourneau organ. The church is at 2100 New Hampshire Ave. NW.

**Saturday, Sept. 24, 7-9:30 pm:** Five organists will present 2 ½ hours of free music on the Flentrop organ at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4201 Albemarle St. NW, as part of DC's "Art All Night." The church will also present art exhibits and labyrinth walks with music by [Harmonic Introductions](#), an overtone singing group. Organists will be Kathleen Cooper, Diane Heath, Justus Parrotta, Stephen Smith and Anne Timpane.

**Sunday, Sept. 25, 2 pm:** Cathedral Day Organ Recital at Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave. NW, presented by staff organist Thomas Sheehan on the 115th anniversary of the laying of the Cathedral's Foundation Stone.

**Sunday, Sept. 25, 5 pm:** Organized Rhythm, a duo made up of Grammy-winning percussionist Joseph Gramley and organist Clive Driskill-Smith, will perform Gustav Holst's *The Planets* and Camille Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. Free-will offering

**Tuesday, Sept. 27, 12:10 pm:** Organist Yeri So, Faith United Methodist Church, Rockville, MD, performs works by Bach, Max Reger and more at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, Oct. 2, 4 pm:** Organist Stephen Ackert and classical guitarist Mak Grgic perform a duo recital at Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW. This is the third in a recital series celebrating the 300th anniversary of *The Well-tempered Clavier* by J.S. Bach. Free-will offering to benefit Friendship Place, which offers services to homeless individuals and families.

**Tuesday, Oct. 4, 12:10 pm:** The Washington Bach Consort presents the cantata *Jesu, der du meine Seele*, BWV 78, preceded by organist Gregory Hooker playing Bach's *Toccatina and Fugue in F Major*, BWV 540 at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Friday, Oct. 14, 7 pm:** The DC, Potomac and Northern Virginia chapters, in partnership with The Boulanger Initiative, present PipeSpectacular 2022 featuring music by female composers played by Janet Yieh (Church of the Heavenly Rest, New York City), above left, and Joy-Leilani Garbutt (St. Luke's Episcopal, San Francisco) at National City Christian Church.

**Tuesday, Oct. 18, 12:10 pm:** Organist Adam Detzner, minister of music at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Annandale VA, will play music by Bach, Sweelinck, Pärt and anonymous medieval and Renaissance composers at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Tuesday, Oct. 25, 12:10 pm:** Trumpeter Chuck Seipp and organist Randall Sheets will perform pieces by Handel, Vivaldi, Bach and more at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.



## Music at the Monastery

Together with the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, the DC AGO is proud to support a series of community outreach musical events. Chapter members present these events on the second Sunday of each month from September to May at 4 p.m. The monastery is at 1400 Quincy St. NE. To sign up for vacant slots Feb. 12 or March 12, please contact Russell Weismann at [rjw48@georgetown.edu](mailto:rjw48@georgetown.edu).

Oct. 9: Daniel Carroll (Purcellville, VA)

Nov. 13: Iris Lan and David Lang (Washington, DC, and McLean, VA)

Dec. 11: Kim Hess (Arlington, VA)

Jan. 8: Carol Feather Martin (Arlington, VA)

April 16: Brass of Peace

May 14: Chuyoung Suter (Washington, DC)

## Music at Midday

Fridays 12:15-1 pm at National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 5 Thomas Circle NW. Social distancing and masks required. Free admission; donations accepted.

**Sept. 16:** Randall Sheets, recently retired ceremonial organist of Arlington National Cemetery, presents “French Favorites” featuring music of Louis Couperin, François Couperin, Théodore Dubois, Gabriel Pierné, Eugène Gigout and Charles-Marie Widor.

**Sept. 23:** DC organist Justus (Jay) Parrotta performs “A Fall Flourish,” including music by Hildegard von Bingen, Mark Winges, Christopher Hoh and Carson Cooman, along with his own *Carillon on “Lasst uns Erfreuen.”*

**Sept. 30:** Pittsburgh organist Nicholas Will performs music by Leo Sowerby, Henry Walford Davies, John E. West, Richard Purvis, Jean Langlais and César Franck.

## Organ, guitar and Bach, oh my!

The ongoing series of concerts featuring Bach’s *Well-tempered Clavier* continues at Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave NW, with a program of music for guitar and organ. At 4 pm on Sunday, Oct. 2, guitarist



Mak Grgic will join organist Stephen Ackert to play arrangements of WTC preludes and fugues in C major, F minor, B minor, and C minor, along with solo works for their respective instruments. Widely acclaimed as a recitalist and teacher, [Grgic](#) was nominated for a Grammy award for his work with unequal temperament for the guitar.

More about his career can be found at [www.makgrgic.com](http://www.makgrgic.com). The Howell organ at Georgetown Lutheran also features an unequal temperament particularly suited for the Bach works. Free-will donations will benefit Friendship House, which works to put people in homes of their own. Free street parking on Sundays.



# Saint Luke Lutheran Church presents *Organized Rhythm*



featuring *Planets* by Gustav Holst &  
*Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns

Grammy Award Winner JOSEPH GRAMLEY, *percussion*

CLIVE DRISKILL-SMITH, *organ*

Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Admission: Free Will Offering



**Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School**

9100 Colesville Rd

Silver Spring, MD 20910



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## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

### District of Columbia

**Music director:** St. Francis Xavier Church. Part-time. Click [here](#).

### Maryland

**Interim music director and organist:** Silver Spring United Methodist Church. 30 hours per week Nov. 21-April 23. \$41,000 on an annual basis. Eligible to apply for permanent position. Click [here](#).

**Director of music and worship arts:** Chevy Chase United Methodist Church. Full-time. \$45,000-55,000 per year. Click [here](#) for details from the [agohq.org](http://agohq.org) website.

**Assistant director of music/organist:** St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring. Part-time (12-15 hours per week) Aug. 29 to Holy Trinity Sunday. Salary \$13,500-15,000. Send email to [atruche@stluke.us](mailto:atruche@stluke.us).

**Music director/organist:** North Bethesda United Methodist Church. \$18,000-22,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Director of music/organist:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waldorf. \$24,000-26,000 annually. Three-manual Rodgers Trillium 927 organ. Click [here](#).

**Organist:** Holy Cross Parish, Garrett Park. Click [here](#).

**Music director and principal organist:** St. Catherine Laboure, Wheaton. Full-time. Click [here](#).

### Virginia

**Music director:** First Presbyterian Church of Arlington. \$36,000-37,000 annually. Four-manual custom Allen organ. Click [here](#) for details from [agohq.org](http://agohq.org).

**Keyboard/choral scholar:** Mount Olivet United Methodist Church, Arlington. Play piano for the youth choir, sing with the adult choir, occasionally provide organ music for worship services. Sept. 11-May 28, \$4,000-6,000 for nine months. Click [here](#).

**Music director/choir director/organist/pianist:** Bethany Lutheran Church and Preschool (LCMS), Alexandria. 20 hours per week. Click [here](#) for details from [agohq.org](http://agohq.org).

**Organist:** Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Middleburg. Part-time. 8.5-rank Rieger organ. Contact the Rev. Eugene LeCouteur at [rector@emmanuelmiddleburg.org](mailto:rector@emmanuelmiddleburg.org).

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**Minister for worship/organist:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax. \$45,000-55,000 annually. Go to [www.lordoflifeva.org/staff](http://www.lordoflifeva.org/staff) for details.

**Music director/organist:** St. Luke Catholic Church, McLean. Full-time. Click [here](#).

**Organist/music director:** Nativity Lutheran Church, Alexandria. \$20,000-24,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Organist/choral director:** St. Dunstan Episcopal Church, McLean. \$28,000-32,000 annually. For details, call the Rev. Stephen Shepherd at 703-356-7533.

**Director of music/organist:** Peace Lutheran Church, Alexandria. Part-time. Two-manual, 18-rank pipe organ. Click [here](#).

**Organist/director of music ministries:** St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Springfield. \$25,000-28,000 annually. Gress-Miles pipe organ with two manuals and 15 ranks. For details, call the church at 703-451-1088.

**Organist/pianist:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Vienna. \$20,000-25,000 annually. Click [here](#).



## The Dean's Message

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strong community of organists and organ lovers. We are all navigating ecclesiastical and academic environments where we serve as performers, teachers, counselors, collaborators, managers and all things in between. As such, I encourage you to take advantage of our fraternity here in the nation's capital and enjoy the fellowship, support and educational benefits we can offer one another.

Regarding our community of organists and organ lovers, there was an excellent article in the August 2022 edition of *The American Organist* written by Jonathan Bezdegian, the former dean of the Worcester, MA chapter. It was titled "Empowering Chapter Members and Engaging Leadership" and in it, he laid out 10 things that members can do to help their chapter. I encourage you to read the full article, but I want to highlight just the first three items here:

- Speak up. Tell the leadership what you want to see in your chapter. You have the power to make change.
- Show up. Come to programs that are being offered.
- Help spread the word. Talk about programs in your chapter. Encourage friends and family to take interest and attend them.

One of the program highlights for this fall is our annual PipeSpectacular Event. This year, we are partnering with The Boulanger Initiative to feature a wide variety of music by female composers performed by Janet Yieh (Church of the Heavenly Rest, NYC) and Joy-Leilani Garbutt (St. Luke's Episcopal, San Francisco), both of whom have DC ties! The program will be on Friday, Oct. 14 at 7 pm at National City Christian Church. We hope to see you there!

One of our new initiatives this year will be the launch of a DC Chapter YouTube channel where we can highlight the many exceptional instruments in our area. We hope that you will partner with us in helping to spread the joy and passion for the king of instruments in new ways. Stay tuned for more information on how you can contribute to this new venture.

Finally, having attained the AAGO certification in June, I would be remiss if I did not encourage the pursuit of certification. Gaining certification, at whatever level you find yourself, can be of great value to both the individual and the churches that benefit from improved skills of their musicians. Requirements for the 2023 exams can be found on the AGO [website](#). Please tell us if you want support and guidance in this endeavor.

I encourage you to share your thoughts, ideas and events with us so we can support one another in our various ministry journeys. Feel free to make liberal use of our chapter email, [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com), follow us on Facebook and be on the lookout for the YouTube channel. I wish you all much success in your musical adventures this year, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming chapter events.

Grace & Peace,  
Paul Byssainthe, Jr.

## New members

We welcome new members Chloe Costello and Adrien Rauline, who joined through the AGO's Year of the Young Organist initiative.

## THE COUPLER

*Promote your event, product or cause with an advertisement in The Coupler, the official publication of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Rates: full page (4 issues), \$100; half-page (4 issues), \$50; quarter page (4 issues), \$25. Email advertising requests to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com) with "The Coupler" in the subject field. Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists and send them to DC AGO, P.O. Box 39179, Washington, DC 20016.*

## LIFE MEMBERS

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Robert Grogan

Eileen Guenther

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Albert Russell

Donald Sutherland

David Hearn (deceased)



Acoustical Design  
Collaborative Ltd

## Acoustic Design Services

**Acoustical Design Collaborative, Ltd** is an independent consulting firm specializing in ecclesiastical spaces where natural acoustics for music and unobtrusive amplified speech are essential for traditional worship celebration. Services provided to building committees, architects, and organ builders include:

- **Acoustic & Audio-Visual Systems Design**
- **Room Reverberation Enhancement**
- **Choir & Organ Space Planning**
- **Speech Intelligibility Assessment**
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- **Expert Opinion, Peer Review & Client Advocacy**

We strive to provide professional advice based on prudent design criteria, cost-effective solutions, clear concise recommendations, and open communication, delivered in a timely and economical manner.

A strong personal involvement characterizes our services. After understanding the design issue, we use a systematic technical approach, tempered with practical experience to provide a range of options factoring budget and aesthetic concerns that are concisely summarized to facilitate informed decisions.

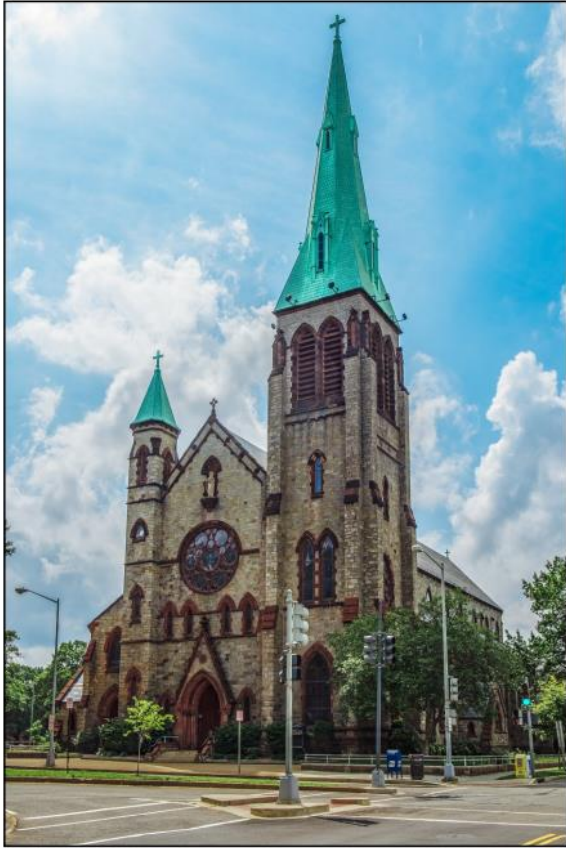
Your acoustic challenge may be one we have already solved. Please contact us to see how our combined 45 years of consulting and university acoustics teaching can improve your house of worship.

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Your Sound...Our Passion

[info@akustx.com](mailto:info@akustx.com)





## SAINT DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH WASHINGTON, DC

“The Island”, as it was often called in the nineteenth century, consisted of the area now known as Southwest Washington. Members of the Order of Preachers – the Dominicans – have stood witness in this historic part of the District of Columbia for over 160 years. The present structure, designed by noted New York City-based architect Patrick Keely, was completed in 1875. Just a decade later, in 1885, a fire destroyed the church’s interior, which was quickly restored. At the same time, the church was adorned with a grand new organ.



We at Di Gennaro-Hart are pleased to announce that we have been commissioned by the Archdiocese of Washington to undertake a major restoration of the Hilborne L. Roosevelt instrument. Cousins to Teddy, Hilborne and his brother, Frank Roosevelt, were among the very finest nineteenth century American organ builders.

The project will include the replacement of the 1929 English-style console with an “American terraced” console built according to current AGO standards. The console will offer a strong nod to the Roosevelts, particularly through the use of the engraving font that was commissioned by their firm. The present solid state control systems will be replaced with a 100 channel capture system and a new switching system with performance recorder. The reeds will be restored, numerous repairs will be completed, and the entire instrument will be thoroughly cleaned. A powerful Tuba stop, constructed by a shop that traces its roots to the Roosevelt firm, will be added.

Father Jordan Turano, OP, *Pastor*  
JC Cantrell, *Music Director and Worship Coordinator*

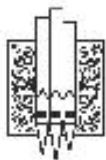


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